



EAST-WEST GATEWAY COORDINATING COUNCIL

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A SUMMARY OF CITIZEN TESTIMONY

RECEIVED AT REGIONAL FORUM

METROPOLITAN GOALS HEARINGS

EAST-WEST GATEWAY COORDINATING COUNCIL

ST. LOUIS AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

JUNE 14, 1972

*Food - Clothing - Shelter
Food Stores & Clothing Stores
Bulging*

*Housing non-existent in most
parts of city & county in low
to moderate range*

*Builders to build - Most workers
Banks will loan
But nothing zoned*

*Fear of "undesirables"
i.e. low income white
& blacks - low or high in*

*very little grant money
to city low income housing
afraid of more than say
Regional plan could allocate*

THE SAINT LOUIS AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

INTRODUCTION

During the past three months the Regional Forum of the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council has held a series of hearings throughout the St. Louis, Missouri-Illinois Metropolitan Area to update, modify and expand Regional Goals.

In order to provide a basis for citizens testifying at each hearing, all were provided with the Council's established and adopted goals and policies. The six major categories for which the Council has established goals and policies are Physical Environment and Natural Resources; Justice; Transportation; Employment and Economic Development; Government; and Human Resources and Social Welfare.

Throughout the eighteen hearings conducted by the Regional Forum, several common issues were repeatedly stated. These issues are as follows:

1. The goals and policies of the Council are far too general and non-specific.
2. The problems of transportation relative to moving people are serious. Poor or non-existent mass transportation poses severe hardships particularly for minorities and the elderly.
3. Many communities are in need of an agency to provide technical assistance in applying for and administering federal grants. These communities have little or no ability to remain abreast of developments relative to new programs.

4. Citizens must be afforded a meaningful avenue of participation in all metropolitan planning and decision making.

A final set of goals cannot be prepared until the Missouri Statewide Goals Commission has held its hearing for the St. Louis Area. However, the general thrust of the citizen testimony received to date has been organized by the major categories for which goals have previously been established. Upon completion of the State Goals Hearing, Metropolitan goals will be proposed for adoption by the EWGCC Board.

Following are the major directions of the testimony relative to each major category.

PROPOSED GOALS AND POLICIES

Physical Environment and Natural Resources

Proposed Goal: To develop land usages in conformance with environmental factors and to conserve natural resources from wasteful depletion.

Proposed Policies:

1. The regional solid waste disposal program should be completed and implemented as quickly as possible.
2. A decision on completing as quickly as possible or abandoning completely the Meramec Basin Development should be made. The extreme slowness of this project has caused much confusion to local governments directly affected.
3. The many rivers and streams of the region provide recreational opportunity but must be preserved from encroachment.
4. A regional ecological study must be completed in order for local governments to intelligently exercise land use controls. Lands unsuitable for development must be identified.
5. All counties within the region contain significant amounts of flood plain land. A regional policy regulating the development of such lands must be developed.
6. A regional system of parks is necessary to meet the severe shortage of such facilities.
7. The impact of dams and levees must be more closely assessed.
8. Environmental considerations must be more carefully

considered in public and private actions.

9. Those areas of the region with outstanding natural characteristics which deserve preservation must be identified.

10. The Upper Mississippi River National Recreation Area should be extended to the Meramec.

11. Land for future parks should be purchased as quickly as possible to take advantage of lower land costs and to avoid their acquisition for other uses.

12. Consideration should be given to a "metropolitan conservation district" which could accept, manage, and hold land development rights of landowners who wish to keep land in its existing state. (Lands purchased in advance or held by a conservation district may remain in private use through "lease-back" arrangements.)

13. States should authorize a "value-added" tax on re-zoned properties which appreciate in value because of the public action which has provided a substantial gain to property holders.

14. Long-term bonds should finance advance acquisition so future users will also be paying their share of costs.

15. Long-term options and easements which may or may not be used by local governments should be considered in preserving open space.

16. All levels of government must provide reasonable tax incentives necessary to achieve a clean environment.

Justice

Proposed Goal: An effective, coordinated regional Justice System which provides equitable treatment under the law, significantly decreases the region's crime rate and improves relations and understanding between citizens and law enforcement officials.

Proposed Policies:

1. The judicial system is small, municipalities should be upgraded through the sharing of trained judicial officers.
2. The rate of recidivism must be reduced and the provision of employment upon release from prison can reduce this rate.
3. Juvenile detention facilities must be kept separate from other detention facilities.
4. Separate facilities for the retarded offender must be developed.
5. Because of the capital costs involved, jail laboratory, and training facilities should be provided on a regional or multi-jurisdictional basis.
6. Police must be given special training to recognize and deal with the retarded offender.
7. An expanded public defender system for indigents is needed.
8. There is a great need to increase the number of judges to deal with civil matters such as divorces.

9. Increased usage must be made of night courts to allow witnesses, defendants and plaintiffs to participate in those cases where day court attendance means loss of pay.
10. Increased cooperation and coordination in communication among all law enforcement agencies in the region is necessary.

Transportation

Proposed Goal: To develop a regional transportation system capable of moving people and goods safely in the most economical and efficient manner.

Proposed Policies:

1. A mass transportation system providing improved service is an immediate necessity, particularly for the elderly who need access to a variety of services and for inner city residents who, in many cases, have no other means to reach employment.
2. The relocation of railroads currently occupying prime land must be accomplished as quickly as possible.
3. A regional system of airports must be developed.
4. A regional multi-purpose authority to administer airports must be created.
5. The improvement of bridges and roads particularly in the rural portions of the region must be accomplished immediately.
6. All transportation facilities must be compatible with existing environmental factors.
7. The Federal Highway Trust Fund must be restructured to provide assistance to mass transit systems.
8. The states must provide capital and subsidy funds to mass transit systems.
9. A regional authority with the power to issue general obligation bonds to be amortized from non-property tax funds is needed to administer a transit system.

✓

Employment and Economic Development

Proposed Goal: To provide each citizen with an adequate economic level to insure that all residents may be contributing members of society.

Proposed Policies:

1. Industry and commercial development ^{✓ housing} should be dispersed throughout the region to insure ease of access to jobs and a proper spread of resources to local governments.
2. Discriminatory practices in employment involving both management and labor must be eliminated.
3. Areas of future industrial and commercial growth should be identified and zoned accordingly.

*Further
from
Dinner*

(4.) Housing development should be planned in accord with industrial and commercial development. *and major rehousing should be done with special emphasis on non discrimination against the poor.*

1C-W

John Moore - Gateway Task Force

Goals for state

- 1 Do away w/ property tax - fed. const. amend.
an allotment of at least 10% of fed inc
tax to county or city
Prop tax on bus for higher ed.
- 2 10% inc. tax allocated by ind choice to local
govt problems.

*money
goes
working
new
neighbor
now*

Government

Proposed Goal: To provide all citizens adequate services at the most reasonable costs.

Proposed Policies:

1. As the region continues to urbanize, counties must be strengthened in order to provide those services which are beyond the resources of municipalities.
2. Certain needed governmental services such as mass transportation, regional parks and solid waste disposal, can best be provided by an area-wide operating agency.
3. Increasingly joint provision of services must be made to allow citizens of small municipalities to receive these necessary services.
4. All government units must meet minimum standards in providing services.
5. Local jurisdictions must have access to technical assistance resources to keep them informed of government programs and to assist them in preparing applications for federal grants.
6. Zoning powers exercised by small municipalities should be coordinated by counties so that neighboring municipalities are not adversely affected.

The implementation of revenue sharing by the federal and state government is necessary to allow counties and municipalities to provide needed services.

*new
neighbor
regional
services*

8. The incorporation of new municipalities must be more closely governed to prevent the formation of additional units of government which cannot provide citizens with necessary services.

9. The creation of special districts should be allowed only if existing counties or cities, acting jointly or individually, cannot provide the proposed service.

Human Resources and Social Welfare

Proposed Goal: A quality of life which enables every citizen, regardless of race, creed, religion or sex, to live in dignity, realize his greatest potential and make his contributions to the social, economic and cultural growth and strength of the region.

Proposed Policies:

1. Expanded resources must be made available to those school districts which do not have a sufficient tax base.
2. Senior citizens of the region have unique problems which must be addressed.
 - a. A public transportation system responsive to their needs must be developed.
 - b. Senior citizens must have access to recreational, medical, social and commercial facilities.
 - c. Nutritional services must be provided.
 - d. The needs of senior citizens in the "urban fringe" are particularly difficult to address because of extremely difficult transportation problems.
3. Welfare reform at the Federal level is essential.
4. State fair housing laws are needed to implement open housing at the local level.
5. Strong anti-discrimination legislation should be enacted at the state level in the areas of public services, housing and education with enforcement procedures and stringent penalties for non compliance.